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THE

UNDERGROUND

The Unofficial Student Publication of Missouri State University

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MSU Legacy Marches On



Photo by Jenna Drew
See Legacy Day Photo Spread, Page 5

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Everyday Things



- Across
4. Sucks it up (6)

6. Brushes it aside (5)

7. Things get clearer; drink from them (7)

11. Creates a virtual image; reflective (6)

12. Boob tube (10)

13. Tells time; to look (5)

14. Holds a picture (5)

15. Navigation tool; Small rodent (5)

16. Take a seat (5)
17. Lazy ____; Rotates goods (5)

18. Computing on the go (6)

19. Dogs chew on it (4)
- Down
1. Back and forth, back and forth (6)

2. ____ball; you carry things in it (6)

3. Keys unlock sounds (5)

5. Adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides (10)

6. Stores energy (7)

8. Stores stuff (4)

9. Round and round it goes (5)

10.Slice and cut (5)

11.Keeps the lawn down (5)

16.Burn it (6)



10

TOP

Movie Villains



Ivan Drago
(Dolph Lundgren)
- Rocky IV (1985)



Khan Noonien Singh
(Ricardo Montalban)
- Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982)



The Shark
- Jaws (1975)



The Wicked Witch of the West
(Margaret Hamilton)
- The Wizard of Oz (1939)



Hans Gruber
(Alan Rickman)
- Die Hard (1988)



The Terminator
(Arnold Schwarzenegger)
- The Terminator (1984)



The Joker
(Heath Ledger)
-The Dark Knight (2008)



Alex Forrest
(Glenn Close)
- Fatal Attraction (1987)



Darth Vader
(Voice of James Earl Jones)
- Star Wars (1977)



Jame "Buffalo Bill"
Gumb
(Ted Levine)
- The Silence of the Lambs (1991)

New printing limit stifles student needs

Five-hundred printed pages per year. Or, if you do the math, three printed pages per week, per class. Student Government Association seems to think that is all students deserve to print at the open computer labs on campus, a place students pay a fee to use. Assuming the average student enrolls in 15 hours each semester (30 hours and 10 classes total for the year) for the roughly 30-week school year, that rounds out to only three printed pages per class, per week in order to avoid exceeding the 500-page limit. Those three pages for a week of class must cover printed notes, papers, assignments, and whatever else a professor asks students to print. Were students really beating down the doors begging Student Government Association to limit our printing privileges to 500 pages a year? You'd think so, given the little signs SGA put out now sitting next to every lab computer terminal on campus that say we did.

For supposedly going green, we wonder how much paper and ink they used printing out those signs? Couldn't they have just wrote it on the desktop backgrounds? In any case, SGA does not seem to have to do much to enforce this quota. Computer technicians have to worry about implementing and maintaining the system, while lab employees must decide whether to grant or deny extra printing requests. SGA members just get to sit back, vote to impose a printing quota on the rest of us, and make it appear they are doing something for the environment and the school's budget. SGA computers are not located in an open lab, so they can still print as much as they want, whenever they want. Unfortunately, the students (SGA's constituents) are the people who will be harmed by this capricious decision. Some students will avoid the computer labs once they reach the imposed limit, instead printing on their own home ink jets (costing the student money), while other students will just ask to have their printing limit exceeded. If SGA really wants to get serious about saving paper and money, why allow students to extend the limit so easily? Either set a limit or don't. Doing neither wastes everyone's time. We seriously doubt lab employees really are going to sift through a students print jobs to make sure they are academic-related. Honestly, that should not be their job anyway. Okay, so one student printed over 25,000 pages last year. That is a ridiculous waste of money, ink, and paper. However, the whole campus should not be punished over the actions of one student. Instead of a printing limit, we have a better solution to the problem. As before, student printer usage should be monitored by software. However, students should not be limited in printing privileges. At the end of the year, any student who prints an excessive amount of copies is subject to a print review by members of an SGA board. If, after examining a student's print jobs, SGA finds that an overabundance of non-academic prints were made, then that student would be required to pay five-cents per-page for anything over 500 pages. Voila. Under this plan, students would limit their print jobs to academic purposes to avoid the fine, the campus saves paper, ink, and money, students following the rules can print their academic work as needed, and the burden of policing the mandate transfers back to members of SGA, where it belongs. Going green doesn't have to mean going cheap.

What do you think about the 500-page printing limit?

Comment on this article online at msu-underground.com

THE UNDERGROUND

Mission: *The Underground* strives to serve as a voice of integrity on the campus of Missouri State University. *The Underground* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach each article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

Submissions: Letters to the editor can be sent via email or postal mail. Letters must include name, address, class or title and telephone number for verification purposes. *The Underground* reserves the right to edit letters to the editor and publication is not guaranteed.

Each person is allowed one (1) copy of *The Underground*. Removal of multiple copies is considered theft.

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Please wash your hands

Refuse to wash them? Then stick em in your pocket. Keep your filthy hands away from my school!

I have noticed many Missouri State students feel it unnecessary to wash their hands after using the restroom. This is also a problem to those who are around individuals that do not wash. I would think that the H1N1 flu virus and various signs at just about every public restroom in America would be sufficient enough to get people to wash their hands. Apparently for many, the message is lost. Men in particular do not seem to find it worthwhile to wash up after urinating. This is an extremely grotesque habit. Based on my own informal observations, I would say as many as one-third of Missouri State men do not wash their hands after hitting the john. I am unable to speculate on the number of women who practice this, and I don't want to go to jail for investigating. The hygiene message should be nothing new. After all, I would guess you might have learned this from your parents, or at least your preschool teacher. The message was drilled into me through my entire elementary school experience. Was my experience unique? I doubt it. Some people on campus undoubtedly practice good hygiene, and I applaud you for it. But for those who don't, let me thank you for being the proliferators of many germs and viruses. You are causing others to come down with various ailments of which you yourself may never become ill. A recent study at the University of Colorado found more than 4700 different bacteria species on 51 sets of hands. Yuck. You wouldn't intentionally run people over with your car, would you? Well, when you don't wash your hands, you're pretty much doing the same thing. Those who disagree haven't come down with the flu lately. Show some respect. Next time you hit the john, take the extra fifty seconds and wash your hands properly. If not for yourself, then do it for others.



Joel Hahs

Remembering the terror of 9-11



“The World Trade Center and the Pentagon have been bombed.”

Those words remain ingrained in my mind, even eight years later.

The man who told me this was the principal of my middle school in Mamaroneck, New York. I was only in fifth grade at the time.

Instant confusion followed.

Now, it wasn’t the mad dash of screaming New Yorkers trying to escape the falling buildings, but it was confusion nonetheless.

Teachers and those students who were old enough to understand what had just happened were visibly shaken.

Fear engulfed the campus at Rye Neck Middle School/High School. The two schools, which shared the same building, had entered a state of panic.

My classmates had family members that worked in Manhattan, some even in the World Trade Center.

Our school district was close enough to New York that the military had planes and helicopters flying over our town en route to Ground Zero.

I remember President Bush giving his speech to the nation on television.

I remember the phrase, “We Shall Never Forget.”

Sadly, I think many people have forgotten what happened on September 11, 2001.

Over the ensuing years, we have forgotten those who died and lost sight of why we fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Acts of terror are now referred to as “Man made disasters” by the current administration. We spend our time protesting a war of which most Americans do not comprehend our foe.

We as a society have lowered the morale of or troops by calling this war un-winnable and comparing it to Vietnam. Unlike Vietnam, however, our men and women volunteered to fight in this war because they want to keep our country safe from future attacks.

I have not forgotten that day eight years ago. Have you?

Zachary Singer is a freshman at Missouri State. He invites your response to this article.



Zachary Singer

Advocating a closed-door policy

When I walk the crisscrossing sidewalks up to Blair-Shannon, or by the row of trees to the south entrance of Cheek, or up the steps to Meyer Library, what do I find when I get there? Three or four pairs of glass doors, with another set of doors just beyond. This double set of doors traps the air and keeps it from escaping the building, making it somewhat cheaper to heat and cool the air inside.

I see what they did there.

But more and more often, I’m seeing something else as I approach these storied halls. The automatic doors for the handicapped standing open.

The first time I saw this, I naturally

Jason McGill



strolled on through. I figured someone handicapped must have just used the doors. Or maybe someone with a cart or heavy load couldn’t find anyone to hold a door open.

I actually stopped and looked back at the doors, feeling the heat billowing in from the outside. No one needed them open anymore. I tried to shut them, the hydraulics were locked in place. I supposed the doors were just timed to stay open a really long time.

But they weren’t.

No, as time went on, I realized what was really going on. Students, faculty, maintenance personnel, visitors, mail carriers, a vast cross section, from all walks of life, were pressing the big, blue, square button and taking advantage of the automatic doors for the handicapped without any apparent need.

I see what they did there.

Of course, it’s a waste of energy. Of course, it thwarts the very reason for

having a double set of doors in the first place; to keep the heated or air conditioned air inside the building...inside the building.

So why do people do this? Is it sheer laziness? Are these people so important or in such a hurry they cannot spare the half second it takes to push open a door?

And don’t give me the germ argument. Some people seem to think touching a door handle is like getting to second base with everyone else who opened that door. Wear gloves if you’re really that afraid or use a sleeve. Just be sure to scrub yourself down in the bathtub afterward, muttering the word “quarantine” over and over.

I have a suspicion it’s related to this strange impulse people have to use technology in utterly unnecessary ways. It’s the same part of the culture the electric scissors came from, or the Roomba or auto-tune. These are the people that get online to find out the current temperature...

outside... right now. The inner child thinks it just cooler to make doors open by



themselves.

Remember when you were six years old at the grocery store and you were walking in and out of the sensor, opening and closing the automatic doors, and your mom said, “That door is not a toy!” Neither are the automatic doors for the handicapped. So stop it.

See what I did there?

Also, push in your chairs when you get up from the table in the dining hall, for Pete’s sake!

Free tutoring facility opens

by Zach Becker

Finding a tutor on campus has never been easier.

Thanks to the new Bear Claw (Center for Learning and Writing), students needing assistance in writing, math, or any subject taught on campus can find tutors quickly, easily, and all under one roof.

Located conveniently on the first floor of Meyer Library, the Bear Claw is designed to be “a comfortable place for students to come together and work,” according to Mike Frizell, Director of the Bear Claw.

With a staff of highly trained student tutors, Missouri State students are free to drop by to get some extra help with their assignments, free of charge, in the 10,000 square foot space.

The center is in the process of hiring subject-area tutors for any classes that students request, such as Chemistry 160 or Psychology 121.

“These are difficult, high demand classes where we never really had organized tutoring for them,” Frizell said.

The center already employs student tutors in writing and math.

Bear Claw tutor Kelly Bextermueller, a senior majoring in speech and language pathology, has enjoyed helping students improve their writing by working hand-in-hand with them.

“The one-on-one basis is more of a laid back environment,” Bextermueller said. “You see people improve over the course of time. It’s really rewarding.”

“In the classroom environment it’s really hard to get to know your students,” said Bear Claw tutor Sarah Viehmann, a graduate student in English composition and rhetoric. “(As a tutor), you get to form a relationship in order to help them with something as intimate as writing.”

While Missouri State did offer tutoring prior to the creation of the Bear Claw, students had to go to many different places to get it.



Photo by Zach Becker

At right, Bear Claw Writing Center tutor Sarah Viehmann, graduate student in English Composition and Rhetoric, gives writing tips for a class paper to senior Allison Bates, an English Education major.

“We had a lot of splintering of services,” Frizell said. “Tutoring was handled by individual departments. Tutors had no formal training, other than being good at the subject.”

Frizell took over the Writing Center, which is now a separate entity within the Bear Claw, in 2005 and has worked to expand the service.

“(The Writing Center) had laid fallow for about a year and people weren’t really advertising it,” Frizell said. “There had been no new pedagogy (teaching methods) being introduced.”

Since Frizell took over, the Writing Center has grown from employing 10 writing tutors to 32.

Student use of the Writing Center increased from 350 students in 2005 to 3,800 students last year.

Previously located in Pummill Hall and most recently Sicheluff Hall, Frizell believes the new location for the Writing Center in Meyer Library will make it possible for even more students to utilize its services.

Writing Center tutors can assist students of any writing level, from undergraduate to doctoral. In fact, about 80 faculty members sent research papers through the Writing Center for suggestions last year.

The effort to incorporate these tutoring services under one roof through the Bear Claw was

spearheaded by Frizell, as well as Diana Garland, Director of the Learning Commons, and Rachelle Darabi, Associate Provost of Student Development and Public Affairs.

About nine months were spent designing the space, accounting for “everything from colors to table top shape all the way to what would work best for student learning,” Frizell said. “We’ve got to make it convenient for students. Otherwise, they won’t use it.”

Frizell believes the central location in the library will increase student traffic for all tutoring services. He has also been working diligently to spread the word about the Bear Claw,

promoting it to freshmen students during orientation and pitching the service to faculty to suggest to their students. Those who use it seem to appreciate the service.

“Most students who try it will come back more than once,” Frizell said. “Ninety-two percent of our clients (at the Writing Center) last year were repeat customers.”

“We try to get people excited about writing,” said Bear Claw tutor Rebecca James, a junior majoring in literature and gender studies. “I think it’s the hardest part but the best part.”

The Bear Claw Center can be found online at bearclaw.missouristate.edu.

Trip to Africa alters life perspective

So there I was, inside a courtyard of a mud-hut village, with about 20 laughing children catching winged ants to be roasted and eaten later, and all I could think was, “What the hell am I doing here?”

Sometimes in our lives, situations and opportunities seem to be put in motion, almost beyond our control.

Things fall into place, schedules open up, and everything seems to point in the direction of whatever has fallen into our laps.

This happened to me in March, when everything was telling me to go to Northern Uganda. So, I went.

I’ve been involved with the group Invisible Children (invisiblechildren.com) since 2005.

I’ve campaigned against the horrifying use of child soldiers in parts of Africa.

I wrote my eight page term paper in ANT100 about it. I watched the videos, read the books, and saw the pictures, but

truly nothing compared to actually witnessing it.

There is no way I could have been prepared for what I saw.

Yes, there was sadness. There was poverty, starvation, gun-bearing children and despair.

But there was also immense kindness, jubilee, laughter, booty dancing like I’d never seen outside of The Creek and the desire to know and be known.

I came home to the normal feelings of anyone

who has been abroad and visited poor countries.

We are wasteful. We are rich. We have no grasp on real hardship.

Many of us lead very shallow lives. I include myself in these categories.

But truly, now I know what it’s like to not be a regular American.

I can eat weird food like ants and posho (a cassava/ water based paste).

I can go a long time without a shower, and without running water. I can go to the bathroom in a disgusting squatty with flies all around me. I can live

without much money or even without straightening my hair.

I think as Americans we need to be careful. I see a trend of materialism and wastefulness that’s gaining speed and power.

If you are bristling up at my words, hold on a second. I know that many people need to buy nice things because it makes them comfortable.

I know we weren’t brought up to think about how much food we throw away, or how little we really need to survive.

It’s our human, American nature to focus our attention on other things. This isn’t something that will ever be fixed, honestly.

But I think if there are people that have gone to places like Uganda, who know exactly what I’m speaking about, and those people speak up like I am right now, that can be a spark of awareness.

You will never, I repeat *never*, hear me call myself a poor college student. Po does not exist in my life.

Some of the most precious moments of

my life thus far came this summer in Northern Uganda.

The joy I received from simply walking around with a Ugandan named Gladys and her daughter Sharon, having them point out different crops and people to me, is unmatched.

It wasn’t always easy. I had my heart broken just about every day over something—whether it would be a child with a distended stomach, or an old man forecasting a famine next year, or a street walker who was 14, or 15 or a homeless man on the streets yelling at God and the world—but it was worth it.

I feel better knowing that I’m no longer living blissfully unaware in my rich American bubble. I truly cannot wait to return to Northern Uganda.



Victoria Branch



Photos by Jenna Drew
Students, alumni, faculty and staff celebrate Legacy Day on August 28 on campus. At top, the Pride Band stands at attention before performing. At far left, Missouri State President Michael Nietzel speaks to the audience. At left, two children are greeted by Missouri State’s mascot, Boomer the Bear. Legacy Day celebrates the day that the university changed its name from Southwest Missouri State University to Missouri State University.